



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

5031

Ser N87/ 8U180278

June 17, 2008

The Honorable Peter J. Roskam
507 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roskam:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2008, concerning Mr. (b) (6) letter on the loss of the USS SCORPION (SSN 589). The memory of the 99 SCORPION sailors on eternal patrol forever resonates in every aspect of our submarine culture, history and tradition. We express our sincerest condolences to Mr. (b) (6) on the tragic loss of his brother.

The Navy has extensively investigated the loss of SCORPION through the 1968 court of inquiry, and the 1970 and 1987 reviews by the Structural Analysis Group. Nothing brought forth in the investigation and reviews caused the Navy to change its conclusion that an unexplained catastrophic event occurred which resulted in uncontrolled flooding to the forward compartment of the submarine causing the loss of the submarine.

None have greater sympathy for the families of those that were lost on SCORPION than those of us who wear the Submarine Dolphin Insignia. However, we have no new evidence that would warrant us to conduct a new investigation into this tragedy.

The Navy has made a significant effort to declassify information related to the loss of SCORPION. These documents are available for viewing at the Navy Historical Center Operational Archives. Their contact number is (202)433-3224.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

C. D. Haney
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy